

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Process for making a wet-skin treatment composition comprising:
 - a) an aqueous phase comprising water and a dispersion stabilizer;
 - b) a structured oil phase comprising:
 - i) a skin compatible oil,
 - ii) a structurant that forms a stable network of finely divided solids in said liquid skin compatible oil at a temperature below 35 °C and wherein said structurant is present in an amount sufficient to cause said oil phase to have a viscosity of 100 to 5000 poise measured at 1 sec⁻¹ at 25°C;

wherein said oil phase is dispersed in said aqueous phase to form an oil-in-water dispersion having a weight average droplet size of about 20 to about 500 microns;

wherein said structured oil phase is retained on the skin as measured by a skin retention efficiency index of at least 0.15 as determined in the in-vitro skin retention test;

wherein said oil-in-water emulsion has a low irritation potential as measured by zein solubility below 0.3 as measured by the zein solubility test; and

wherein said emulsion is low foaming as measured by a foam volume below 5 cc as measured in the solution shake test;

wherein said process comprises:

- (i) mixing structured oil phase and aqueous phase comprising dispersion stabilizer to form droplets of an aqueous solution containing oil mixture having weight average droplet size of greater than about 100 microns;
- (ii) passing said mixture through a screen having opening of up to about 2000 micrometers to make oil drops of about 20 to 500 microns in size.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the skin compatible oil is a hydrocarbon oil, an ester oil, or a silicone oil.
3. A process according to claim 1, wherein the structurant is an organic or inorganic structurant or mixtures thereof.
4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the organic structurant forms a solution in said skin compatible oil at a temperature greater than 40°C and said structurant solidifies to form said stable network of finely divided solid particles upon cooling said solution to a temperature below 35°C.
5. A process according to claim 1, wherein weight average droplet size is 5 to 500 microns.
6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the structured oil phase has a weight average droplet size in the range of 20 to about 200 microns.
7. The process according to claim 1, wherein the structured oil phase has a viscosity in the range of 200 to 2000 poise at a shear rate of 1 sec⁻¹ and a temperature of 25°C.
8. The process according to claim 1, which additionally comprises an auxiliary benefit agent.

- 5
9. The process according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary benefit agent is a functional skin benefit agent selected from the group consisting of humectants, occlusive agents, barrier lipids, skin repair agents, UV screens, vitamins, skin lightening agents, antimicrobials, antioxidants, and mixtures thereof.
- 10
10. The process according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary benefit agent is a sensory modifier selected from the group consisting of emollients, skin conditioning agents, perfumes, distributing agents, chemosensory agents and mixtures thereof.
- 15
11. The process according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary benefit agent is a chemical preservative.
- 20
12. The process according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary benefit agent is a chelating agent.
- 25
13. The process according to claim 8, wherein the auxiliary benefit agent is an essential oil.